

FUTURE
PRESIDENT

The Clarion

SCHOOL
SPIRIT

2019
SUPERLATIVES

BEST
SELLER

NOBEL
PEACE

INTERNET FAMOUS

COUPLE

CUTEST

From the Editors-in-Chief:

Congratulations on making it through another rigorous school year! Throughout the course of this past year, we have each worked to make progress in our own way, whether it be in the classroom or on the track. We truly came together this year, rallying around great causes, like the Blood Drive and Relay for Life, and celebrating our identity as a school community, through events like Asian Night and Col-lision. The hard work is over- enjoy your summers!

As your new Editor-in-Chiefs, we hope to continue to improve the Clarion. Thank you so much to our advisors, Mr. Hynes and Ms. Hogan, and our graduating Editor-in-Chiefs, Rebecca Azin and Helen Liu, for giving us this opportunity and helping us through this process.

We would like to give our best wishes to the class of 2019, as they leave East Brunswick High School and head out into the world, forging new paths and pursuing their passions. While goodbyes are always sad, we know that you will do great things and are excited for all that the future holds for you. Best of luck!

-Amasha and Eva

From the Executive Assistant Editors:

Hello, EBHS!

We can't believe it's already the last month of school! As this school year comes to an end, we would first love to wish this year's Clarion seniors goodbye. Thank you so much for all the hard work you've put into this club; we really enjoyed getting to know all of you. Best of luck in all of your future endeavors!

The graduating seniors are definitely leaving behind some pretty big shoes to fill, but we hope to follow their example and are excited to be your Clarion assistant editors next year!

We hope all of you have a wonderful summer break, and we can't wait to share more stories and make more memories with all of you starting next fall. Enjoy your much deserved summer break, EBHS.

-Caroline, Mason, and Serena

THE CLARION

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Here's to another great year of
the Clarion

A Prom For the Ages

by Ryan Lin

Senior Prom is just around the corner, and with it comes a slew of stresses, responsibilities, and nerves. June 7th is the day that every senior has been keeping a watchful eye on ever since the onset of the school year. Like every year, it is a day where lifetime memories will be created, and where friends, dates, and acquaintances alike can come together and celebrate the conclusion of an arduous journey of schooling, spanning over a decade.

With food, music, a stunning venue, and a theme set in the 1920s taken straight from the likes of *The Great Gatsby*, senior prom is set, like any other year, to be a spectacle to witnessed. All that said, the most important aspect of prom is the people attending it, and there is no shortage of

that the big night runs as smoothly as possible. "I've definitely put a lot

worrying, the hope is that a perfect night can be reflected through the



The Great Gatsby

This year's prom features a "Roaring 20s" inspired theme

of thought into prom," stated senior Layiba Choudhry, "I'm just going with friends, but it's still a lot of stuff to

memories made and the photos taken.

For many, like senior Patrick Hennessy, prom is an event that shouldn't require too much stress and should just be enjoyed for what it is, "I've been looking forward to prom for a long time and it feels strange that it's so close now. It's kind of surreal, honestly, but I'm excited for sure." Of course, most seniors have already made their plans and secured their preparations, therefore there is little left to worry about and much left to enjoy. The same can't be said however, for the prospective graduates of 2020, where prom is still a very real concern. "Even though prom is still a year away from now, I can't help but worry about who to take; it weighs on me from time to time," stated Justin Yu, a current EBHS junior. Again, prom is full of stress where many must toil for months deciding every miniscule detail, down to the very person to take. Justin certainly isn't alone, just ask any junior and they will certainly admit that prom has popped up within their thoughts more than a few instances.

But regardless of grade, for current sophomores, juniors and seniors, prom is a tremendously important night, and one that will mark the culmination of a lifetime of cherished memories.



Instagram

EBHS senior Sneh Shah set up a prom-posal with the help of his friends

promposals springing up everywhere on social media platforms like Instagram, officially signalling the short amount of time left. EBHS seniors aren't the only ones invited though, with people from other grades and even other schools being allowed to attend.

Prom is by all means a daunting event, requiring many months of planning and preparation to ensure

worry about from my dress to accessories. Overall though, I do think it'll be a fun time with friends." This attitude of a nervous excitement seems to be an accurate reflection of everyone who is planning to attend prom. All the stresses can compound - from what to wear to how to even get to prom, all the little details can seem to be magnified. However, with all the

ALL GOOD THINGS MUST COME TO AN END(GAME)

by Clara Lee and Julia Maling

Since the release of *Iron Man* in 2008, the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) has brought together a series of superheroes based on their comic book characters. More recently, following the popularity of *Avengers: Infinity War*, the release of *Avengers: Endgame* on April 26 has driven fans into a frenzy. As *Endgame* is the final movie in the Avengers series, fans were ecstatic to see it, especially after the abundance of trailers and teasers across the media. The film has tied the entire collection of the MCU characters together, all interconnected within a single universe, bringing the crowd-pleasing series to an exhilarating conclusion.

An emotional rollercoaster, the film evokes a beautiful blend of smiles, laughs, tears, and cheers. It explores the aftermath of *Infinity War* and looks deeply into the hearts of beloved characters. The original six Avengers, Iron Man, Captain America, Thor, the Hulk, Black Widow, and Hawkeye, along with some new additions, must team up once again

to give positive reviews on *Rotten Tomatoes*, a significant rise from *Infinity War*'s 85 percent. *Endgame* has

Home. Senior Juliana Edelman praised Marvel, saying *Endgame* "wrapped up the whole thing very well."



Vanyaland

The cast of *Avengers: Endgame*

also made \$2.5 billion worldwide according to *Forbes*. The *London Evening Standard* says "it raises the bar so high that there may well never be a superhero movie to match it." However, the film expectedly was unable

Unfortunately, as all good things must come to an end, the release of *Endgame* has marked the finale of a Marvel era. The innovative mechanics introduced by Iron Man, the mythological world of Asgard opened by Thor, the exploration of space and its many fascinating planets in *Guardians of the Galaxy*—all of these MCU components, the stories behind them, and their beloved characters are encapsulated throughout the film. With the culmination of Marvel's many superheroes and plotlines, what once started as a small group of characters in *Iron Man*, *The Incredible Hulk*, and *Thor*, has now expanded into a larger universe of Marvel. Overall, fans are very satisfied by how far the MCU has come over a span of just eleven years, as sophomore Bhaskar Jain "couldn't have thought of a better way to end this phase of the MCU." Although the electrifying and gratifying final installment successfully wraps up the franchise's main storylines, the end of this era only marks the beginning to a new one.



Forbes

The original Avengers and the President of Marvel Studios at the *Endgame* premiere

and embark on another adventure in defense of the universe. To those who have not seen it yet, be wary of spoilers, as the directors of the film lifted the "spoiler-ban" on Monday, May 6, two weekends after its release. *Endgame* has been certified "fresh" at an impressive 94 percent of crit-

ics giving positive reviews on *Rotten Tomatoes*, a significant rise from *Infinity War*'s 85 percent. *Endgame* has also made \$2.5 billion worldwide according to *Forbes*. The *London Evening Standard* says "it raises the bar so high that there may well never be a superhero movie to match it." However, the film expectedly was unable

GRADUATION IS COMING!

by Shreya Rajeswaran



Southwest Journal

Throw up your graduation caps and celebrate!

On Thursday, June 20th, 2019 at 11 a.m., the Class of 2019 will be graduating from high school! The ceremony will be held at Cure Insurance Arena in Trenton, New Jersey, where the more than 700 students will part ways with East Brunswick High School.

This year's ceremony will include speeches by the valedictorian, the senior class president, Christine Lee, and this year's faculty speaker, EBHS English teacher, Mr. Sislian. Our Principal, Dr. Vinella; Superintendent, Dr. Valeski; and Board of Education President, Ms. Becker; will also be speaking. The graduation ceremony will be streamed live over the internet, so family and friends around the world can come together to celebrate the students' milestone achievement.

The EBHS band and chorus will also play a role in the ceremony. The band will be performing the "Pomp and Circumstance March" as the seniors enter the arena. Later, the chorus will sing "The Star Spangled Banner" and the EBHS Alma Mater. This year's graduation song will be "You Will Be Found" from the play Dear Evan Hansen, an encouraging message of individuality and comfort that everyone will find their way in the world.

Graduation is a huge milestone

which took a lot of hard work and dedication to achieve. 11th grade Grade Level Administrator, Mr. Hanas, shares that "It's always exciting to see the seniors as they've made it to this special point in their education. It's a really special time to see all the hard work that's gone in from the students, the faculty, and the families in supporting our graduates to get to that point."

Preparing for graduation and organizing the ceremony is no easy feat; Mr. Hanas jokes that he "would compare it to planning a wedding every year." The venue usually has

to be booked two to three years in advance. A year prior to the graduation, cap-and-gown order materials are secured, and order forms are distributed in September or October to the seniors. Throughout the year, administration works with a florist, books buses to transport students to the venue, and orders graduate hoods. In the spring, arrangements are made regarding the procession, lineup lists, and seating. During the first week of June, tickets and gowns are distributed, and there is a final rehearsal one day before graduation.

Valedictorian Jonathan Shoung shares that he is "looking forward to graduating. I'd really like to move on with my life and I've had plans for studying and travel for a while now. There's a lot out there that we haven't seen yet and there's a lot of work to be done and fun to be had. Of course, there are some things I'll miss but that's an unavoidable part of any change."

To his fellow classmates graduating with him, he adds: "If you're able to graduate from EBHS, I would say keep doing what you're doing, try to enjoy your life, and don't forget to do the work you need." Good luck and congratulations to the class of 2019!



HCC

After graduation, seniors will move on to face the real world

A Nation in Mourning

by Rothela Samadi and John Wang

Millions of Sri Lankan citizens were forced to go into lockdown on Easter Sunday, as a series of eight explosions set off by suicide bombers took place at several churches and hotels across the country. A report on the attacks by BBC News states that three of the eight explosions took place at the Kingsbury, Shangri-La, and Cinnamon Grand hotels in Colombo, the country's capital, while three others occurred at St. Anthony's Shrine, St. Sebastian's Church, and Zion Church in the cities of Colombo, Negombo, and Batticaloa, respectively. These near-simultaneous blasts were initially reported at around 8:30 AM, with two more explosions occurring later in the day—one at a small hotel in Dehiwala, southern Colombo, and the other near the Colombo district of Dematagoda. In total, these bombings killed at least 253 civilians and injured hundreds more.

The attacks shocked people across

soon as we read the news, my parents called our relatives to ensure that they were safe. Thankfully, no one had been injured by the bombings, but both a curfew and a social media ban had

the aftermath of the attacks, including the resignations of the Defense Secretary and police chief. According to the New York Times, President Maithripala Sirisena maintained



B.K. Bangash

Members of a church in Pakistan hold a vigil for victims of the bombings

been placed across the country." The curfew, which was issued from Sunday evening of the attacks into Monday morning, and social media ban were just a few of the changes brought upon the lives of Sri Lankans. As Kumarasinghe points out, "Sri Lanka had

transparency, stating in a televised address that he, "must be truthful and admit that there were lapses on the part of defense officials...There was an intelligence report about the attack, but I was not kept informed." The nation mourned the immense losses on the Tuesday following the bombings, as citizens participated in three minutes of silence at 8:30 AM, the time the first of the attacks had been carried out. Condolences and support have poured in from leaders, including East Brunswick Mayor Brad Cohen, who attended a candlelight vigil for victims held at the East Brunswick Unitarian Society. Others in countries all over the world are also stepping up to help Sri Lanka rebuild, with GoFundMe pages raising thousands for victims and their families. When asked about what they would say to victims' families and all those in mourning, Kumarasinghe and Madurawala offered words of hope and support, saying, "We all may have our differences whether it be race or religion, but no one should be ostracized or attacked for what they believe in. My mind and my heart will forevermore be with you. Stay strong, hama ekanama (everyone)."



Atul Loke

Family members mourn and offer prayers at a funeral in Negombo, Sri Lanka

the world, as sophomore Enya Madurawala recalls, "...I really couldn't believe that something like this could happen in such a small country, but I suppose that's everyone's reaction when they hear news like this of their homeland." Sophomore Kinolee Kumarasinghe shared a similar sentiment upon learning of the attacks, saying, "Immediately, my mind raced to the thought of my extended family...As

just begun to get back on their feet after a near-thirty year war that ended in 2009. With these attacks, it will take countless months at the least to recover." A near decade-long span of peace following this civil war was shattered by the attacks, reigniting tensions and spawning conflicts amidst the millions of mourning citizens.

Several changes to high-level administration have also taken place in

NBA Draft Preview

Breakdown

by Rohit Narla

With the NBA Draft coming up on June 20th it's undeniable that this year's class is full of talent and potential. College stars like Zion Williamson, RJ Barrett, Ja Morant and plenty more will be participating in the draft. Despite their slim chances of only 6%, the New Orleans Pelicans have landed the first overall pick and it is assumed that they will be choosing Zion Williamson. Junior Matt Smith, who is a basketball enthusiast commented that "the Pelicans are in an interesting place right now. They could try to keep Anthony Davis on the team, building around him and Zion and creating potentially the most dominant frontcourt in the league. However, Anthony Davis's public discontent with the team could lead to him getting traded off, getting the team more players. This would force them to build around Zion or whoever else they get." Anthony Davis, who is currently not happy with the Pelicans, wants to be traded, but a lot is at stake if they were to attempt this. Trades could also happen during the draft, and there is a possibility of teams trading for Anthony Davis and getting a higher or lower pick. Sophomore Jordan Rullo, who is a big Knicks fan/enthusiast says that



Asbury Park Press

The Knicks target R.J. Barrett for the NBA draft

"I am interested in seeing what moves the Knicks make in the draft. They could draft RJ Barrett with number 3, or trade a majority of their youth for Anthony Davis. Either way, the upcoming draft could be pivotal for the Knicks' impending future." The Knicks, who ended their last season with a 17-65 record and were considered to be the worst team in the NBA,

have been slowly trying to rebuild by either getting RJ Barrett or trading for Anthony Davis. This could be crucial for a new start. RJ Barrett who had averaged 22.6 points, 7.6 rebounds, 4.3 assists and was shooting 45% from the field, could be a huge turning point for the Knicks if they were to draft him. Every draft has some major steals, and Junior Bryan Bellantoni thinks that "in every draft, it's about that late-lottery steal like Kobe, PG, Kaly, or Steph. This year's guy is Nickeil-Alexander Walker. Remember the name." Nickeil-Alexander Walker, who was a guard for Virginia Tech, averaged 16.2 points at about 47% from the field, scores in a variety of ways, and drives to the rim in fashion. Walker, who is projected to be a late first-round pick, can be deadly on the fastbreak so it will be fun to see where he goes and the impact he might make for whatever team he plays for. Stay tuned to see what happens in this upcoming draft. Let's hope to see some blockbuster moves!



The Stepien

Nickeil Alexander-Walker drives to the basket

Summer: Rest or Stress?

by Srinidhi Ayalasomayajula and Carley Doktorski

Although summer is quickly approaching, many students are not necessarily feeling the relief that comes with an academic break. As the college application process, internship opportunities, and standardized testing become increasingly competitive in high-achieving districts, the summer months become a time to get ahead for sophomores, juniors, and seniors alike.

Relaxation becomes more of a dream than reality for many students scrambling under the pressure, though others refuse to let school take over summer fun. When it comes to summer vacations in high school, students are left feeling torn between relaxing and studying. "It is important to stay on top of your skills, however, I do not believe this is what should consume your whole summer. Finding time to relax, wind-down, spend time with family and friends and divulge into hobbies are a very important part of the summer time," EBHS guidance counselor Mr. Kaplansky said regarding how students should be spending their free time over break.

your hand at coding. Take summer classes at Rutgers. You have so many

to anxiety, but I believe it certainly does add to such feelings," said guid-



Stress Management-Love to Know

Student face a lot of stress during the school year

options and you can have fun while doing it," Senior Keerthana Manivasakan offered as advice to overwhelmed underclassmen focused on test preparation, like sophomore Erin Ma. "Unfortunately, I won't be having much of a break because of SAT classes. I'll probably just stay home and not do work in order to relax," Ma explained. However, as students

ance counselor Mr. Heller in response to students' summer pursuits. "Ultimately, I believe stress contributes to anxiety and other reactions, simply because students are trying to stay competitive with grades, standardized scores, course caseload and rigor, and extracurricular activities." Other students, like sophomore Rachel Post, are more in line with Mr. Heller's approach, favoring summer fun to academic stress. "I think it should be very important, if not the number one priority, to relax and rejuvenate over the summer. Students stress themselves out so much with studying, they need time to just relax," she said. "I won't let school consume my summer."

Whether it be going to the beach or an SAT prep course, finding balance is crucial to achieving academic success as well as enjoying the time off. As important as it is to look ahead, it can be just as important to enjoy the present, the best thing students can do is to take a step back and remain calm and confident. "There is no simple answer," Heller noted. "But I maintain the belief that people can only control what they have control of. Thus, stay in the now, and make decisions which are realistic and logical."



Azulfit

The summer months help lower students' stress levels

"It's is all about finding the right balance." He recommends students set aside an hour a day to study for the SAT/ACT in order to alleviate the stress of cramming. Some students at EBHS are excited to explore new interests. "Travel to a new country! Try

try their best to stay ahead of the curb with grades, test prep, and the college application process, concerns over increasing stress and anxiety levels have also been on the rise. "I do not believe that the SAT/ACT and/or AP courses exclusively contribute

Measles Outbreak

by John Wang and Rothela Samadi

Measles, once eradicated from the United States, reared its ugly head in 26 states this year. In 2000, the virus was said to be eliminated after a long and effective campaigning process for vaccinations that increased immunization rates, preventing citizens from catching and spreading the disease. However, with the rise of the anti-vaccination movement, the percentage of vaccinated people has dropped, allowing the once-dead disease to make its way into the U.S. once more.

Measles is well known for the rash that breaks out after a few days after the first few symptoms. Like many diseases, however, symptoms only appear about a week or two after the victim first contracts the germ. As of present, a mere .01% of cases are fatal, largely due to an increase in general living conditions and sanitation. The increased use of vaccines over the past few decades has also contributed to that number.

Unfortunately, this rise in vaccinations has slowed due to a continuous spread of misinformation. As a result, several measles outbreaks have occurred. According to Reuters reports, Maine is the 25th state to confirm a case of measles. Currently, there are over 880 reported cases of measles throughout the states this year and only the first half of 2019 has passed. Based on a graph from the CDC, the



Jonathan Cellona

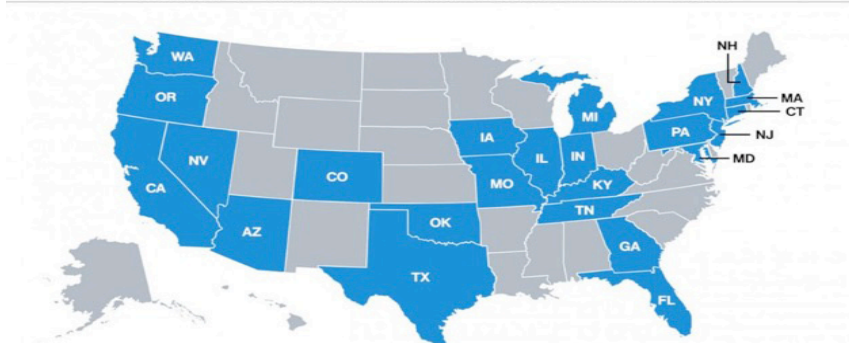
Children being treated for measles at the San Lazaro Hospital

number of cases this year is greater than the sum of the past four years. For senior Kenny Sun, the fact that “our generation has little experience” or encounters with the measles virus makes “people more susceptible to doing away with vaccinations.” This lack of knowledge is dangerous and a major factor in the recent outbreaks. According to the CDC, “72% of the people infected with measles were unvaccinated,” an indication that these outbreaks could have been easily avoided with the use of vaccines.

Measles does not pose a significant threat to East Brunswick High School because, as stated by Ellen Gieser, an EBHS nurse, “almost all of our students have been vaccinated and we have not been notified about any outbreaks in our area.” In accordance

with the New Jersey Department of Health’s immunization requirements, the MMR vaccine is commonly given to children at a very young age, and is readministered at least three times from grades K-12. As a result, most people satisfy this requirement. Even so, the CDC reported that there were 14 confirmed cases of measles in New Jersey in 2019 alone, as of March 28th. It is critical for immunization rates to remain high in order for the phenomenon known as herd immunity to take effect. Herd immunity occurs when a substantial majority of a population is immune to a disease. As such, it is much less likely to strike that region as there are so few people that can carry it. It is especially important for students to get vaccinated as diseases can be transmitted very quickly in crowded hallways. Senior Brandon Ho agrees, stressing that “with twenty students in a classroom and cluttered intersections during passing,” any illness has a large probability of spreading. It’s necessary to emphasize the importance of vaccines even if the chances of an outbreak in East Brunswick seem slim—the infectious nature of the disease makes it so that one person can jeopardize the health of an entire community, especially of those who are medically unable to be vaccinated.

STATES WITH MEASLES CASES IN 2019



Center for Disease Control

As of May 7, 24 states had cases of measles, with ME and NM receiving cases later

SENIOR SUPERLATIVES



Best Friends
Hailey Contrino and Camila Lebedynec



Most Likely to be on a Reality TV Show
Sean Kelliher and Hannah Colaiuti



Most School Spirit
Connor Cheung and Nicole Bernstein



Most Likely to Publish a Bestseller
David Borts and Helen Liu



Most Likely to Win a Nobel Prize in Science
Jessica Ling and Alfred Li



Most Likely to Become President
Eva Tell and David Portnoy



Most Musically Talented
Justin Carew and Dahmin Lim



Best Dressed
Jared Hochstadt and Abigail Cavallo



Best Dancer
Lexi Trechak and Noah Sarmiento



Most Athletic
Kayla Flynn and Reyden Davis



Most Friendly
Kathy Li and Joe DeGuida



Best Sense of Humor
Jordan Downer and Gianna Chiavarone



Most Tech Savvy
Steven Alamo and Danielle Silver



Most Artistic
Thomas Gaffney and Tehyla McLeod



Most Likely to Become a Famous Actor/Actress
Sophia Bulbulia and JohnMark Ofrasio



Cutest Couple
Ian Choy and Sydney Greenberg



Favorite Teacher
Mr. Mondesir and Ms. Powers

Our Retiring Faculty:

Ms. Marilyn Campesi-Cronk

Ms. Cindy Collins

Ms. Julie Elkins

Ms. Carol Falco

Ms. Erica Stufsky

Ms. Kathy Suleski

Ms. Karen Takac

Thank you for everything! We will miss you!

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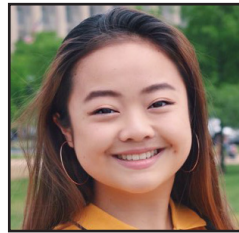
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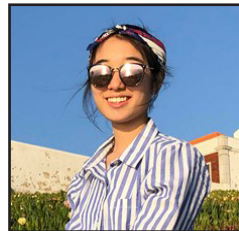
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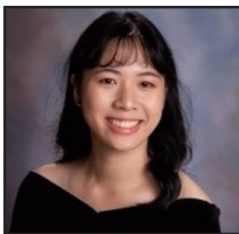
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We love you guys! Best of luck on all your endeavors!